

More Land Sought for Wildlife Park

By Tom Huth Washington Post Staff Writer

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Pr. George's Operation Planned

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The subsidiary of the American Broadcasting Co. that announced plans this week to build a 280-acre wildlife preserve in Prince George's County is negotiating to buy 125 adjoining acres, an official said yesterday.

John E. Campbell, president of ABC Scenic and Wildlife Attractions, said he hoped to close the deal for the three adjoining properties in "a few days." All 405 acres of the projected park are now rolling farmland along Central Avenue about eight miles beyond the District line.

Texas multimillionaire H. Ross Perot and a couple of Irish animal trainers announced plans for a wildlife park on the same site 14 months ago. The

ABC subsidiary bought out Perot and his partners last week, Campbell said.

Campbell said more than 300 animals—including lions, tigers, elephants and other beasts large and wild—would roam free in the preserve. Visitors would drive through in their cars, generally staying inside and keeping the windows rolled up.

Compatible animals would be grouped in "paddocks" with terrains "duplicating their home territory," Campbell said. In addition, there would be an enclosure where baby animals could be touched and fed.

Campbell, speaking by telephone from his company's Silver Springs attraction in Flo-

rida, said the facilities would include a fast-food restaurant and an orientation theater that would emphasize education and conservation.

He said the animals would come from "various places—some will be coming from South African game farms, some from zoos, and from dealers." Campbell envisions a clinic to study endangered species, "and hopefully we can propagate some of these animals."

The preserve would be open about six months of the year, with delicate animals being shipped to Florida for the winter.

Campbell estimated 850,000 visitors in the first year. He

said construction, expected to cost \$5 million, would begin "as soon as possible" and that the park should open by next spring. County zoning approval was granted in December.

Campbell said admission prices had not been established yet, but that the five-park chain of similar Lion Country preserves charge \$3.75 per adult.

As for the dangers of having wild animals roaming among curious humans, Campbell said, "If everybody follows the safety precautions, there won't be any accidents." What if someone doesn't follow the safety precautions? "If you grab an alligator here in Florida," Campbell said, "he'll bite you."